PHILIP MORRIS INCORPORATED

LAW DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

TO: Dr. R. B. Seligman DATE: 8 September 1978

FROM: S. Hutcheson

SUBJECT: PROCESS FOR THE TREATMENT OF TOBACCO MATERIALS/PM 819

Attached is a copy of the proposed application for this case. The application discloses the use of cellulase (produced by the micro-organism Trichoderma viride) for treating tobacco materials to achieve enhanced expandability.

PM has two patents, one to Bavley et al. and one to Silberman, that are related in subject matter. You may recall that the patents disclose the use of cellulase, hemicellulase, and pectinase for treating tobacco plant parts. Bavley's process is related generally to enzyme treatment of tobacco for improving the tensile strength and elasticity of reconstituted tobacco. Silberman's method improves smoking characteristics, and it should be noted that he discusses increased filling power of his treated tobacco.

The present invention is an improvement over our prior work in several respects. The cellulase used is more effective than the prior art enzymes in achieving the desired results, and apparently the cylinder volume increase is significant when compared to expanded tobacco not treated with cellulase.

I would appreciate your comments and any suggestions you may have regarding this application prior to my filing it. If you have any questions, please let me know.

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Attachment
cc: A. Holtzman
A. Palmer, Jr.